of cloth by each sector in the year 1984-85 was estimated as follows:—

	Mn. Mtrs.
Mill sector	3432
Power loom Sector . . .	5445
Handloom Sector . . .	3137

(b) Total employment in each sector on 31-3-1985 was:

	(in lakh)
Mill Sector	13
Power loom Sector . . .	31.80
Handloom Sector . . .	74.96

(c) In addition to the existing schemes, and those announced in the Textile Policy Statement, two welfare schemes, namely Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, and the Thrift Fund Scheme for the handloom weavers have been announced by the Central Government in June, 1985.

Proposals for setting up of Cooperative Spinning Mills in Maharashtra

213. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of proposals for cooperative spining mills in Maharashtra pending with the Central Government for clearance;

(b) what are the reasons for the delay in clearing those proposals; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to start a textile mill in the cooperative sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) There are 17 proposals for cooperative Spinning Mills, all pertaining to 6th Plan period, in Maharashtra pending for clearance.

(b) The reasons for the delay in clearing these proposals are:

(1) The funds allocated during the 6th Plan have been exhausted.

(2) The financial institutions have not been taking up appraisal for term loan since they and the Planning Commission were of the view that spindleage capacity required for 7th Plan has already been reached.

(3) The outlays earmarked for 7th Plan are sufficient only to meet the outstanding commitments of 6th Plan.

Use of artificial fibre in Textiles

214. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any effect on cotton growers due to the use of artificial fibre in the manufacturing of textiles; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to protect to the interests of the cotton growers of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b). The cotton is recognised as the main raw material for the textile industry. The interests of the cotton growers are being protected by various measures taken by Government such as announcements of minimum support prices of Kapas, procurement of Kapas by the Cotton Corporation of India in all the cotton growing States except in Maharashtra due to the Monopoly Procurement Scheme of the State Government at minimum support prices as and when the prices of Kapas fall below the minimum support level, permission for export of cotton considered surplus to our domestic requirements so as to enable the cotton growers to offload their stocks at better prices and announcement of a liberalised long term yarn export policy.